

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EO 11652N/A
TAGS: ETEL, PL
SUBJ: RFE - GOP COMPLAINT

REF: WARSAW 1042 AND SUBSEQUENT

1. THE CHARGE WAS CALLED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FEBRUARY 20 TO HEAR A COMPLAINT AGAINST RECENT BROADCASTS
OF REDIO FREE EUROPE. ZDZISLAW SZEWCZYK, DIRECTOR OF
DEPARTMENT III, READ THE FOLLOWING "NON-PAPER", A COPY
OF WHICH HE GAVE THE CHARGE.

2. BEGIN TEXT

IT CAME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT DURING A MONTH OR TWO
THE SO-CALLED RADIO FREE EUROPE, IN ITS POLISH LANGUAGE
VERSION, HAD EMBARKED ON A NEW OFFENSIVE AGAINST POLAND.

ON JANUARY 27, IN A PROGRAM DEVOTED TO PERSONAL
CHANGES IN THE POLISH GOVERNMENT THE RADIO SPECULATED
ABOUT ALLEGED INTERNAL DIVISIONS AND MAKING ANALOGY
TO CHINA, REFERED TO SOME OF OUR LEADERS AS A "GANG OF FOUR".

ON AND AROUND THE 5TH OF FEBRUARY IN NUMEROUS
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PROGRAMS THE RADIO DIFUSED STATEMENTS DIRECTED AGAINST
THE ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL COUNCILS, IN ITS OWN COMMENTS
FREE EUROPE CALLED THE ELECTIONS "DEGENERATED".

THIS PROGRAMS WERE A CLEAR ENCOURAGEMENT TO BOYCOTT
THE ELECTIONS.

IN FACT, POLES OF ALL CLASSES TOOK PART IN THE ELECTIONS INCLUDING FOR INSTANCE ALMOST THE ENTIRE CATHOLIC CLERGY WHICH, OF COURSE, DOES NOT SHARE THE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY.

IN ITS PROGRAM OF THE 13TH AND 14TH OF FEBRUARY FREE EUROPE DEVOTED A LOT OF TIME TO UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS THAT POLISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN KRAKOW WERE GUILTY OF LAWLESSNESS AND THAT A POLISH CITIZEN, MR. MICHNIK WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN.

I QUOTE ONLY A FEW EXAMPLES OF THIS OFFENSIVE OF RADIO FREE EUROPE BUT OF COURSE THERE ARE MORE.

BEARING IN MIND THAT THIS RADIO IS FINANCED AND CONTROLLED BY THE US AULHORITIES, WE ARE ASKING HOW SHOULD THIS OFFENSIVE BE INTERPRETED.

CERTAINLY, AFTER THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER IN WARSAW AND HIS CONTACTS WITH OUR LEADERS AND OUR PRESS, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT SUCH AN OUTBURST OF ATTACKS AGAINST POLAND.

I HOPE, MR. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES THAT YOU WILL CONVEY OUR REMARKS TO WASHINGTON AND THAT WE WILL RECEIVE A PROMPT RESPONSE. END TEXT (SIC).
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3. AFTER READING THIS STATEMENT, SZEWCZYK SAID HE WANTED TO UNDERSCORE THREE POINTS: A) THE RADIO HAD TAKEN ON "A NEW OFFENSIVE" AGAINST POLAND IN RECENT WEEKS; B) THIS OFFENSIVE DID NOT SQUARE WITH RECENT USG POLICH PRONOUNCEMENTS TOWARD POLAND; AND C) THE GOP EXPECTED A REPLY TO THIS COMPLAINT.

4. THE CHARGE SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE AN IMMEDIATE REPLY, BUT WOULD REPORT WHAT SZEWCZYK SAID AND TRY TO RESPOND TO IT LATER. MEANWHILE, THE USG POLICH TOWARD POLAND HAS NOT CHANGED, AND RFE IS GOVERNED BY GUIDELINES DESIGNED TO ASSURE THAT ITS BROADCAST CONTENT IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH US POLICY. AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD THE GOP, WE WOULD EXAMINE SERIOUSLY ANY COMPLAINT THAT THESE GUIDELINES WERE OVERSTEPPED. THIS WILL BE DONE IN THE CASE OF THIS COMPLAINT, THE CHARGE CONCLUDED.

5. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT PART OF THIS IS A POLISH ATTEMPT TO GET IN A FEW LICKS ON RFE BEFORE THE NEW AMASSADORS TAKE UP THEIR DUTIES IN WARSAW AND WASHINGTON. BEYOND THAT, HOWEVER, THE AUTHORITIES ARE EVIDENTLY GENIUNELY DISTURBED

OVER THE TONE OF RECENT BROADCASTS AND, SINCE WE HAVE
REPEATEDLY URGED THEM TO BE SPECIFIC IN THEIR COMPLAINTS
WE HOPE WE WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO RESPOND TO THIS
DEMARCHE IN SOME DETAILS. END COMMENT.
BROWN

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